Sugar stock in Karnataka

*332. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stock of sugar in various sugar factories in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that sugarcane growers have not been paid the price for their produce due to piling up of stocks; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to permit the sugar factories to release sugar stocks in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) As on 30.09.2002, there was stock of 9.62 lakh tonnes of sugar in the various sugar factories of the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) As on 30.09.2002, the total cane price dues of the cane growers pertaining to 2001-2002 sugar season, were Rs. 81.34 crores which constitute 8.23% of the total cane price payable, as against 5.95% on the corresponding date of the sugar season 2000-2001.

In order to enable the sugar factories to clear the cane price dues of the farmers as also to liquidate their sugar stocks, the Central Government has taken the following measures:—

(i) The sugar factories have been provided temporary relief by way of permitting them to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stocks as free sale sugar in the open market. During the sugar season 2001-2002, out of 221513.7 M Ts of unlifted levy sugar stocks permitted to be sold as free sale sugar, the share of the sugar factories of Karnataka worked out to 21687.7 MTs.

(ii) Advance releases of free sale sugar have been made to sugar mills requiring the same to enable them to clear the cane price dues of the farmers and to reduce their stocks. During

the season 2001-2002, the sugar mills of Karnataka have been granted advance free sale quota to the tune of 31500 MTs.

(iii) The levy obligation of domestic sugar factories was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000 and, subsequently, to 15% with effect from 01.02.2001; this was further reduced to 10% with effect from 01.03.2002 and has enabled the sugar factories to sell more sugar under free sale quota in the open market to obtain better realization.

(iv) The quantitative ceiling on export of sugar has been removed. During the sugar season 2001-2002, the sugar factories of Karnataka exported a quantity of 2.33 lakh tonnes as against 1.28 lakh tonnes during the sugar season 2000-2001.

BPL families

*335. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Supreme Court's direction, Andhra Pradesh and other States have indentified BPL families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government do not recognise the number of BPL families identified by Andhra Pradesh and are releasing foodgrains for the BPL families as estimated by the Planning Commission only;

(d) whether this is not violative of Supreme Court's directive; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Supreme Court in Order in Writ Petition No. 196/2001 dated 28.11.2002 had, *inter alia*, directed all States to complete the identification of BPL families by